



182d Airlift Wing



Peoria, IL

Frequently Asked Health Professions Officer Questions:

1. *WHAT DO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DO IN THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD?*

Answer: Physicians and other health professionals are placed in assignments as closely related to their professional specialty as possible. The role of the ANG member in peacetime is to train health professionals for proficiency and skill development in their specialties. You will work side-by-side with some of the world's premiere and receive the highest level of training on the world's most advanced technology. The same training that our Air Force counterparts receive. This training is done just two days a month and fifteen days a year, (total of 39 days per year).

2. *MY PRACTICE DEMANDS SO MUCH OF MY TIME. WHY WOULD I WANT TO WORK PART TIME FOR THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD?*

Answer: The Air National Guard provides a support system for you and your family that is unsurpassed for a part time practice. There is a long list of subtle and direct benefits that help you to reach both your personal and professional goals. **You will have unusual opportunity serve your country, state, and community using your skills, abilities and professional insight.** You will receive the highest level of training through the finest Air Force schools.

3. *WHAT PROFESSIONAL COURSE IS OFFERED THROUGH THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD? AND HOW WOULD THEY BENEFIT MY PRACTICE AND ME?*

Answer: The Air National Guard offers two of the finest health professional career opportunities. The first is Aerospace Medicine Primary Course, at Brooks AFB, San Antonio Texas. This course is taught by the Air Force and primarily deals with people as they function in the flight environment. You will receive training to include the altitude chamber, centrifuge, survival instruction and an orientation flight. You will receive other aerospace medicine training in the areas of ophthalmology, otolaryngology, internal medicine, etc. At the end of this course you will receive **THE WINGS OF MEDICINE** and will become a flight surgeon in the Air National Guard.

4. *HOW ABOUT THAT OLD AGE REQUIREMENT?*

Answer: Health Professionals without prior service may join the Air Guard up to their 56th birthday. With prior service, one may join as long as they can complete 20 years traditional Air Guard service before the age of 60. (With periodic age waivers approvals up to the age of 68) and still receive full traditional Air Guard retirement benefits.

5. *HOW LONG IS THE COMMITMENT, IF I SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE?*

Answer: Individuals are commissioned for an indefinite period of time. Officers commit to a service contract of four years at a time. Unless the individual is participating in a specific program that requires some type of payback commitment (Incentives, bonus).

6. *DOES THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD OFFERS ANY EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS?*

Answer: YES! Currently there is a \$50,000 Health Professions Student Loan Repayment Program. This program pays to your lending institution \$20,000 for the first two years and \$10,000 the last year, up to the \$50,000 to qualifying physicians. The State of Illinois will also waive 100% of your tuition cost for four years at any Illinois State supported university or college. There is also a Stipend Program, which is designed to provide an incentive for medical professionals to continue their education in certain specialties. Participants in the program must be commissioned in the Air Guard as physicians. The stipend will pay \$1605.00 per month. If you are board eligible/ board certified Health Profession you may be eligible for a \$75,000 cash bonus.

7. *EXPLAIN THE EARLY COMMISSIONING PROGRAM?*

Answer: This program allows a medical student to apply for a direct commission in the Air Guard. Your commission will be as health services administrator during medical school in preparation for re-commission as a physician. Under this program you do not incur any additional obligation after medical school. You cannot be activated while in medical school. You are only obligated to attend one weekend per month and fifteen days per year.

8. *WHAT RANK WILL I COME IN AT?*

Answer: Your entry rank is based on your education level and the length of experience. Health care professionals are given constructive credit for their civilian education and experience towards their entry rank. Physicians and residents usually enter as Captains. Nurses and Medical Students enter as Lieutenants.

9. ACTIVATION, CALL-UPS, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT IMMEDIATE MOBILIZATION. WHAT RULES APPLY TO ME?

Answer: For Federal duty, normally officers are not eligible for mobilization until they are fully qualified in their military specialty. For health care professionals this means, medical students in the early commissioning program are not eligible for mobilization. Residents are not considered "fully qualified" because they have not completed the one-year requirement for an unrestricted license. Physicians and health professionals that are fully qualified must preplan for the possibility of activation. Programs have been developed to assist the family with transition and support, at and during activation.